

Sustain Mid Maine Coalition

Public Policy Team

Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2014

The meeting started about 6:35 p.m. at the Winslow Public Library.

Members Present: Elery Keene, Peter Garrett, Tom Tietenberg, Jane Edwards, Doug Carnrick, and Rob Ellis.

Jane chaired the meeting. Minutes were taken by Elery.

The meeting scheduled for November 17 was cancelled because of bad weather

Minutes: Jane made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2014 meeting, the last meeting that took place. Motion was seconded by Peter Garrett. Motion carried by vote of all who were present at that meeting.

Announcements and Reports from Team members

Peter has communicated with Scott Monroe, editor of the Morning Sentinel, about some of the issues we are concerned about. He also talked with Michelle, a member of Susan Collins staff at her Augusta office.

During discussion it was decided that it would be good for Rob Ellis to write an article about solar farms by which the electricity produced could be shared by nearby individual homes or small businesses. The article could be published in the Sentinel. It might be one of the monthly articles that come from Sustain Mid Maine Coalition after approval by the Executive Board or a piece submitted as an individual item. Rob Ellis was advised to talk with Linda Woods about this.

Peter gave a brief explanation of the Citizen's Climate Lobby legislation that is being promoted at the federal level. He was in Washington promoting it last week. It seems to be doing very well with good support from Republicans as well as Democrats. It is a tax on carbon dioxide with the revenue to be shared by citizens. He also mentioned the REGGI program used by 9 northeastern states including Maine.

Jane and Peter met with a member of U.S. Representative Chelli Pingree's staff at her Waterville office to explain the kind of things Sustain Mid Maine Coalition is doing. Sally Harwood and Linda Woods were also there.

Peter wondered if federal HUD funds might be used to help pay for costs relating to home weatherization. He will get in contact with Gail Chase at the KVCOG office to learn more about this possibility.

The SMMC annual meeting is scheduled for January 24 at the Waterville City Council room. It will be a morning meeting. Mike Stoddard, of Efficiency Maine will be asked to be the Keynote speaker. Each team will be asked to give a brief report on the last year's activities. Peter Garrett volunteered to give a six minute report using picture slides to quickly explain our activities which include testifying on state legislation at legislative committees. We normally testify at Energy, Environment, Agriculture, and Transportation committees. Our activities also include analyzing issues (necessary for testifying), writing articles to be printed in our newspaper, inviting legislators from our area to one of our meetings so we can get to know each other better and better understand one another's perspective on legislative procedures and issues, and a variety of other things.

At the end of the meeting Peter gave a demonstration of a six minute report he had made for the window inserts that reduce the amount of heat which normally escapes through windows. He will make a similar presentation for our team at the SMMC annual meeting in January.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2015.

The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Elery Keene